

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
November 17, 2010 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES ABSENCE)

Mario Bueno	Joseph MarcAurele	Sharon Moylan	Keith Stokes*
Robin Coia	Paul MacDonald	Robert Nangle	Cathy Streker*
Ray DiPasquale	William McGowan	George Nee	Martin Trueb
Deborah Gist	Brandon Melton	Sandra Powell	Pheamo Witcher

GWB STAFF: Lisa D'Agostino, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

DLT STAFF: Sue Chomka, Jen Buck, Mary Ellen McQueeny-Lally, David Tremblay, Diane Gagne, Diane Vendetti, Laura Hart

GUESTS: Janet Durfee-Hidalgo, Governor's Office; Malcolm Baxter, United Way; Ruth Ricciarelli, Center for Health Professions; Judy Jones, Poverty Institute; Marguerite McLaughlin, Quality Partners; Andrea Castaneda, RI Department of Education; Robert Kalaskowski, RI Senate; Todd Flaherty, College Crusade; Jill Holloway, Professional Development Center; Robert Bromley, RI Senate; Heidi Collins, Connecting for Children & Families; Robin Adams, Professional Development Center, Raymond Choinere, House Policy

LOCATION: Department of Labor & Training, conference room 73-1

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on 9/16/10. He asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections. R. Nangle noted that a recusal on one of the votes was not stated. Chair MarcAurele asked him to see M. Mooney regarding this correction. Chair MarcAurele asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes with the noted correction.

VOTE on motion to approve: B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by R. DiPasquale. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. September 16, 2010 meeting minutes approved.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Chair MarcAurele asked Lisa D'Agostino to present this report. L. D'Agostino reported that staff efforts are focused on an ongoing review of the State Strategic Plan. She mentioned the recent Workforce Cabinet meeting where state agency leaders indicated their recommitment to the plan and its positive goals. She indicated that the Plan Management Team (PMT) has reconvened and will be meeting through the end of the year to work on a report that is due on January 1st to the state legislature. The PMT will be working with state agencies to identify and gather information on activities, funding, expenditures, outcomes and employment and training programs throughout the state. The report will include simple demographics of the population. L. D'Agostino reported that D. Tremblay and N. Olson will be taking the lead in working with the agencies on this report. L. D'Agostino stated that following the completion of this report, the PMT will be meeting in January and February to review and prioritize the goals and objectives of the plan.

L. D'Agostino reported that several sub committees have met over the past month and that committee reports will be presented later in the meeting. She noted that despite the current budget restrictions, the priorities of the board are still funded. She indicated that she would be providing more detail on the Career Pathways Task Force later in the meeting. She thanked the Committee Chairs and members for their support to continue to move the agenda of the board.

Consent Agenda (Items 1-4)

Chair MarcAurele asked D. Tremblay to present comments on the consent agenda. D. Tremblay noted that the consent agenda contains many of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requirements that the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) approves and subsequently advises the governor. He explained that all WIN notices were presented and approved at the November 1st Planning & Evaluation committee meeting.

Chair MarcAurele asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE on motion to approve: R. Di Pasquale moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve consent agenda. All approved. Consent agenda approved.

State Career Pathways Recommendations

Chair MarcAurele noted that a summary of the legislation S2836 is contained in the meeting packets along with a list of names to be submitted for consideration for the Governor's appointments to the State Career Pathways System Taskforce. He asked L. D'Agostino to provide further information on the recommendations. L. D'Agostino explained that contact has been made with several individuals considered for the task force. Some prospective members were recommended by the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) while other members are prescribed by the legislation. She noted that representatives of industry are being considered to bring in their perspective. L. D'Agostino noted that the individuals recommended offer expertise in presentation and dialogue regarding employment, workforce and training opportunities. She indicated that many individuals have confirmed their willingness to participate but that some have not responded. She asked that as this item goes before the board for a vote that the motion should indicate that if one of the individuals listed is not able to confirm, that a substitute for that person will be made.

Chair MarcAurele asked if there was a motion to approve the draft recommendations for the fifteen (15) member Rhode Island Career Pathways System Taskforce, with the stipulation that

if any of the persons recommended are not able to participate then a substitute would be recommended. Chair MarcAurele stated that this vote would provide the Chair with the approval to make any substitutions and to include these substitutions on the list provided to the Governor without going back to the board for an additional approval.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by. M. Trueb. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve State Career Pathways System Taskforce recommendations as presented. All approved. Recommendations approved.

L. D'Agostino acknowledged the recommendation of Brandon Melton as the Chair of the Career Pathways System Taskforce and noted his demonstrated advocacy for youth and for the healthcare industry. She asked board members to welcome him in this new role.

L. D'Agostino reported that the Governor will be announcing the appointments for the commission at a meeting on December 6th and invited the board members to attend.

Governor's Workforce Board Annual Report 2010

Chair MarcAurele reported that the GWB is mandated through legislation to submit an annual report which is due on October 1st of each year. The report provides information on the previous fiscal year. This year's report is for the time period of 7/01/09 – 6/30/10. Chair MarcAurele indicated that the report provides an opportunity to review the work of the board. In answer to a question G. Nee raised about distribution, the response was that the report was sent to both the leadership and members of the general assembly electronically. The leadership of the general assembly, along with the Governor and Secretary of State received a hard copy of the report. It was noted that 25 copies were distributed to the state library as required. G. Nee suggested that the annual report be sent to the entire general assembly and to the mayors of the cities and towns to provide an understanding and overview of the work of the board.

Committee Reports

Chair MarcAurele asked committee chairs to present the committee reports.

Adult Education

Committee Chair Di Pasquale reported that the Adult Education and Literacy Committee held several meetings this fall. He mentioned to Commissioner Gist that he and the committee appreciated the cooperation and support of RI Department of Education (RIDE) staff. Chair Di Pasquale commented that the information presented and the serious discussions resulting have clarified the confusion over the funding, RIDE restructuring, staff additions, new programs and Commissioner Gist's vision for adult education programs.

R. Di Pasquale highlighted several key points about the adults that benefitted from access to adult education services funded with JDF resources. He reported that 1739 adults participated and received over 122,000 hours of instruction. He noted that 1059 participants were of Hispanic and Latino background and represented the largest participation group. He indicated that 842 students were between the ages of 25 and 45 and compared this to the surge of 25-40 year olds attending the Community College of RI (CCRI). R. Di Pasquale commented that this is a direct reflection of the economy, higher unemployment and adults looking for additional opportunities to advance their skill set. He noted these key points demonstrate the importance of adult education and literacy programs and the progress being made in providing the basic skills to find a job. R. Di Pasquale asked if there were any comments or questions from committee members or from RIDE staff.

P. MacDonald commented that he was impressed with the information provided by RIDE staff and that he appreciated the response to answer and clarify the committee's questions. Commissioner Gist stated she appreciated the support and patience during this transition period. She reported that a new person has been recruited who has a strong adult education background. He will begin working at RIDE in the next couple of weeks. Commissioner Gist ensured the board that there is a very strong commitment on the part of RIDE to support adult education and literacy programs.

Board Development Committee

Committee Chair Sharon Moylan reported that the committee met on October 27th and is planning for the annual meeting which will be held in May. She noted that the committee is discussing a board retreat. She indicated that the next committee meeting will be held on December 14th.

Employment Security Advisory Council (ESAC)

Committee Chair Bill McGowan acknowledged the complex issues facing the ESAC, particularly with the high unemployment rate in RI. He explained that the state had to borrow in excess of \$225M from the federal government which must be paid back with interest. He indicated the first payment of \$13M is due in September of 2011 and that he believes it has not been factored in the state budget. He mentioned the possibility of a waiver from the federal government on the monies due, noting there is not much hope for this. Chair McGowan explained that this will have an impact on employers as they will be paying higher taxes next year. Since businesses are still struggling in the recessionary times, it could limit hiring. Chair McGowan explained that the state received an infusion of funds based on recommendations from the ESAC to adopt Unemployment Insurance (UI) modernization options. The \$23M received prevented further borrowing, however, Chair McGowan indicated that the state will be back in borrowing mode in January. He noted that the new governor and general assembly will be reviewing the previous ESAC recommendations. He thanked Director Powell, Ray Filippone, and Bob Langlais for providing important information to the committee. The next ESAC committee meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2011.

Planning & Evaluation Committee

Committee Chair McGowan reported that the Planning & Evaluation Committee met on November 1st. He commented favorably on the collaboration between the GWB Adult Education and Literacy Committee, adult education providers and RIDE, noting that adult education is an important component of the state strategic plan. He noted the continuing work in developing youth services and its importance to the plan. Chair McGowan commented that the Plan Management Team (PMT) will reconvene in January to review the progress and the implementation of the plan. He thanked committee members Director Powell, Pheamo Witcher, Paul MacDonald and Mario Bueno for their participation on the committee.

Strategic Investments Committee

Chair MarcAurele noted the challenge this year with the Job Development Fund (JDF) and the difficult decisions being made by the Strategic Investments Committee. He indicated his support for youth funding, comprehensive workforce training grants and funding for other objectives of the strategic plan. He expressed it was important to support these funding efforts during the difficult economic times. Chair MarcAurele commented on the importance of leveraging WIA funds and noted that the One Stop Centers were in a position to help people more quickly during difficult times due to the investments made by the GWB in 2007-2008. He thanked committee members for their participation and hard work.

Youth Development Committee

Committee Chair Melton reported the Youth Development Committee met this past Monday. The discussion involved 2 major topics, one of which is to expand a pilot program which brings youth servicing agencies, and public and private agencies together for a Shared Youth Vision (SYF) collaborative effort. The SYF program will expand to include 1,500-2,000 participants over the next two years. Chair Melton reported that Sharon Lee of RIDE is the co-chair of this Initiative and will be working with Maureen Palumbo of RIDLT.

Chair Melton stated that the other topic of discussion included the all youth agenda. He acknowledged the collaborative partnership between GWB and the 2 local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) which continues to move forward positively. He mentioned the youth funding approval of \$525,000 noting it will support 15 youth centers across the state. He mentioned the \$1M in funding approved for the summer youth employment program. Chair Melton stated that the focus continues on professional development and that the BEST program recently graduated its 3rd class of 40. He reported that an interdisciplinary group of individuals including employers, labor, key industry partners and others will be collaborating to identify other methods of funding youth development.

G. Nee inquired about the funding of the youth centers specifically if the funds were used to pay rent. He also asked if having 15 centers is the most economical way to provide services. L. D'Agostino responded that some of the youth centers are part of a community action agency doing work in that community, noting there are 7 core centers and 8 satellite centers. She indicated that the funding supports staffing in the centers.

Old/New Business

With no further business, Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: B. Melton moved to approve. M. Trueb seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney